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masamune shirow's
ORION
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masamune shirow's

ORION™

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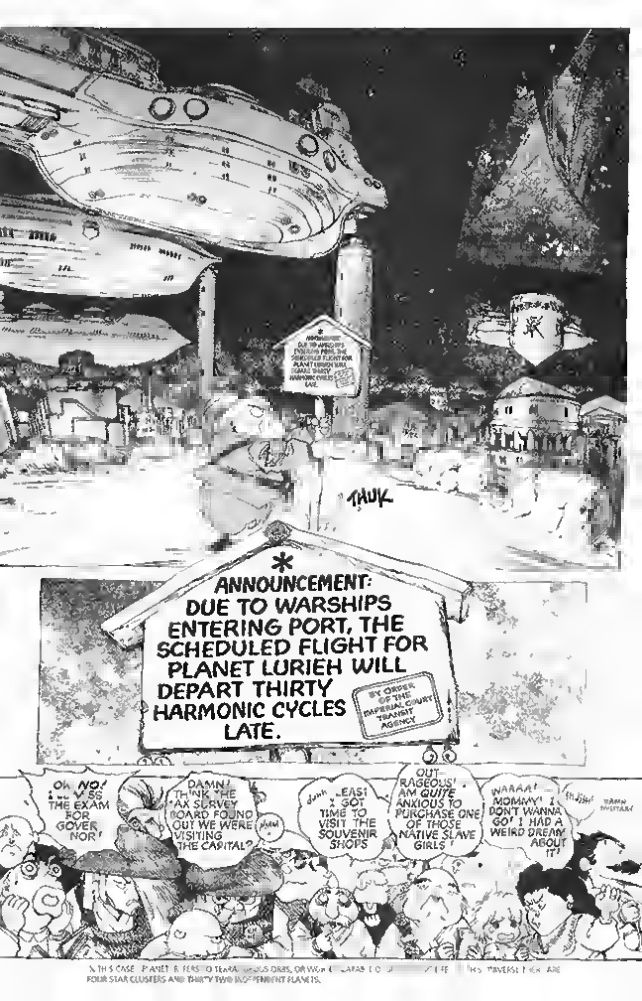

THUK
*
ANNOUNCEMENT:
DUE TO WARSHIPS ENTERING PORT, THE SCHEDULED FLIGHT FOR PLANET LURIEH WILL DEPART THIRTY HARMONIC CYCLES LATE.
BY ORDER OF THE IMPERIAL COURT TRANSIT AGENCY
OH, NO! I... I'VE MISSED THE EXAM FOR GOVERNOR!
DAMN! THINK THE TAX SURVEY BOARD FOUND OUT WE WERE VISITING THE CAPITAL?
HM
DAMN! LEAST I GOT TIME TO VISIT THE SOUVENIR SHOPS
OUT RAGEOUS! I AM QUITE ANXIOUS TO PURCHASE ONE OF THOSE NATIVE SLAVE GIRLS
WAAAA! MOMMY! I DON'T WANNA GO! I HAD A WEIRD DREAM ABOUT IT!
IT'S OKAY
DAMN BRATTANY
IN THIS CASE, PLANET B ORBITS TEARA, WHICH ORBITS, OR WOULD ORBIT IF IT WERE THERE, THE UNIVERSE'S ONLY ARE FOUR STAR CLUSTERS AND THIRTY TWO INDEPENDENT PLANETS.

FIRST NAVIGATOR SESKA! THE MILITARY SHIP NUBATAMA HAS PASSED THROUGH THE FIRST OF TO-DIMENSION
227
BOM-F!
GYAK!
GEE! THOSE WAKE UP TALISMANS REALLY WORK! I BETTER BUY A BUNCH NEXT TIME THEY'RE ON SALE!
STRANGE STUFF
WHAT WAS THAT? THE NUBATAMA'S ARRIVING?
YES'M

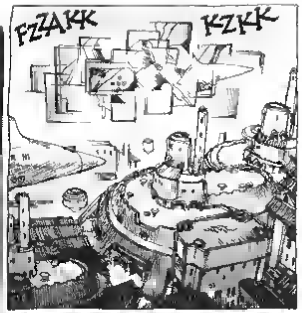
SURE ENOUGH
FZZKKK
KZZAKKK

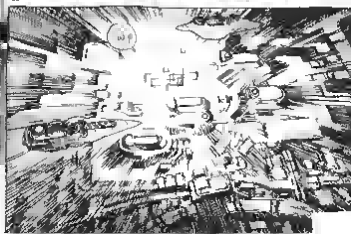
IN KURAAMA REFERS TO "INNER SPACE" WHERE THE INFLUENCE OF STARS AND PLANETS EXCEED A SPECIFIC LEVEL
NOW CHANGING NAVIGATORS AND CAPTAINS
AFTER A BREAK OF TEN H CYCLES THE SHIP WILL ENTER MI-KURAAMA
HEY SESKA! LONG TIME NO SEE!
WELL WELL! SUCH A FAMILIAR GREETING FROM A MERE CLASS B TRANSIT NAVIGATOR!
SHIT YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING RUIN OF ME CAUSE I'M ONLY QUALIFIED TO FLY IN SO KURAAMA Hmph!
AND YOU'RE ALWAYS SO LATE
IN KURAAMA, MINUTES ARE LONGER WHEN THERE IS FEWER MASS FOR GRAVITIES TO ACT UPON
YOU TRYING TO START A FIGHT SESKA DEAR?
WHO? ME?!
START A FIGHT WITH A CLASS B TRANSNAV? HOW QUAINTLY AMUSING!
ANYWAY I'M LATE CAUSE THE SHIP'S HARMONIC COUNT DOESN'T MATCH THE DECLARED COUNT MAYBE THERE'RE SOME STOWAWAYS ON BOARD
MUST BE A BUNCH OF ECONOMIC REFUGEES SWARMING INTO GOKO-KUTEN
GOING TO LURIEH ISN'T GOING TO HELP THEM MUCH THOUGH..
SESKA! YOU KNOW IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING SOME HOPES AND DREAMS AND HAVING NONE!

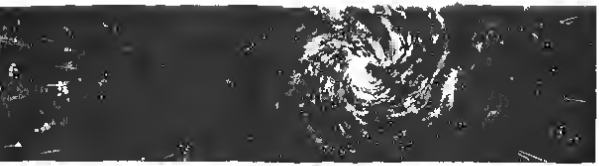
KANGG
VREEEEE
KLAK
TRANSNAV TO CAPTAIN YOU'VE GOT TO DECLARE YOUR PROPER HARMONIC COUNT SIR!
OTHERWISE THE INCANTATION I'VE READIED WILL BE INACCURATE AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE OFF ON TIME!
UNLESS WE CORRECT FOR THE DELAY THERE'LL BE A SHIFT IN OUR INITIAL NAV POSITION I THINK THE BEST CHOICE IS TO CUT THE LAYOVER SHORT AND TAKE OFF RIGHT AWAY.
WAIT A MINUTE! I'M THE CAPTAIN! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!
SMAK
OKAY EVERYONE! PUT YOUR MINDS TO IT! FULL SPEED AHEAD!
PREPARE INCANTATION!
THE THD
BEGIN!!
FZZK

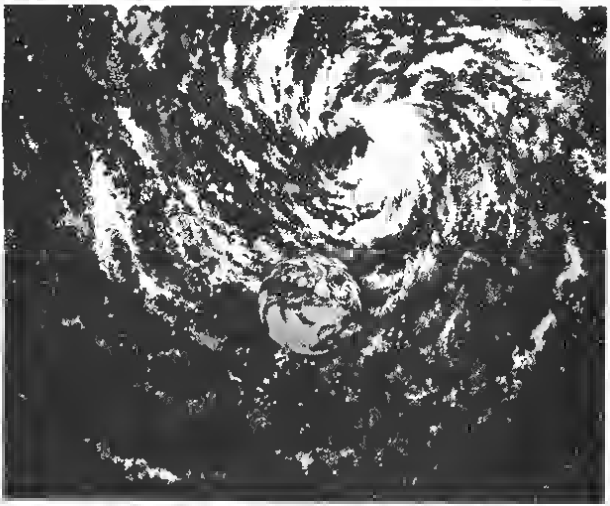
masamune shirow's

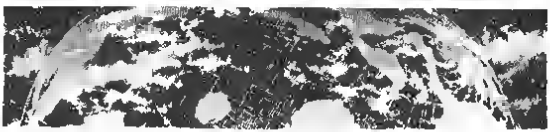
ORION







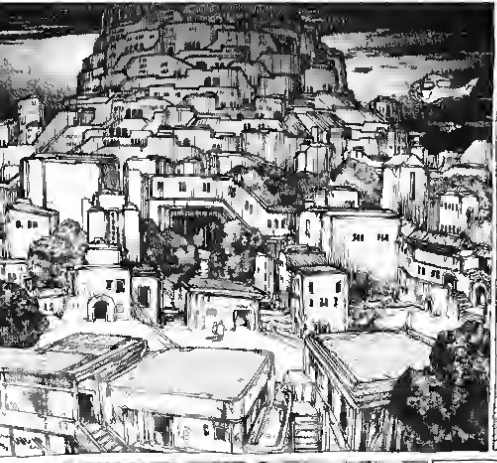




KLAKK
CENTRAL SOKOKU PALACE

WELCOME TO LUTEH!
DISEMBARKING PASSENGERS EXIT RIGHT!
WATCH YOUR STEP!
I NEED YOUR SEAL ON THIS OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FROM THE SKIPPER
SURE. NO PROBLEM THE BOTTOM COPY'S MINE RIGHT?
RATS! I ONLY PILOTED THIS SHIP IN 'CAUSE MY LAST FORTUNE COOKIE SAID IT'D RHYME ME LUCK NOW I'VE GOT ANOTHER COMPLAINT ON MY RECORD
WUMPF
HEY! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM FAL?!
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!!
Hmph

WELL IF IT ISN'T SESKA! HAVEN'T LAID EYES ON YOU FOR AWHILE!
UH R RONNEL? I MEAN COMMANDER RONNEL? WH WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON LURIEH?!
AN ULTRA PSYCHE-LEVEL MALEFIC FORCE IS REPORTEDLY GOING TO MANIFEST HERE TONIGHT SO I WAS SENT OUT FROM HQ I CAME IN ON THE NUBATAMA
PINCH ME I MUST BE DREAMING!
OWW!
I FIGURED IT WAS YOU NAVIGATING THE NUBATAMA
COMMANDER RONNEL!
THIS PASSAGE WAY'S ONLY FOR LOWLY PORT WORKERS SIR!
WELCOME TO LURIEH I'M GONZALES CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD SIR!
WE'VE GOT TO HURRY COMMANDER THE SHOGUN IS WAITING!
BUT I UH...
Ohhh RONNEL
WAAAH!
WAK
WAK
WAK
I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF AGAIN!!!

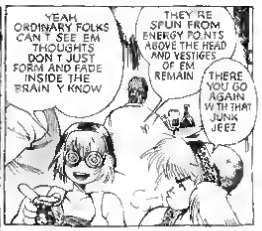


VERY GENEROUS OF YOU SIR! COMING RIGHT UP!
HEY BARKEEP! DRINKS! AND TELL THEM TO HURRY!
KEVVIE
THIS CERVEZA HAS A FUNNY TASTE!

I GIVE MY AAALL FOR YOU, BABY
WOOOH YEAH

THE WORLD MAY END, BUT THERE'LL STILL BE YOU AND ME BABY

YOU'RE IN GREAT FORM TONIGHT SESKA
FELT GOOD TO BELT THAT OUT
I COULD SEE A LOT OF SNAKES
SPANGST


YEAH ORDINARY FOLKS CAN'T SEE 'EM THOUGHTS DON'T JUST FORM AND FADE INSIDE THE BRAIN Y KNOW
THEY'RE SPUN FROM ENERGY POINTS ABOVE THE HEAD AND VESTIGES OF 'EM REMAIN
THERE YOU GO AGAIN W TH THAT JUNK JEEZ

JUST A SIMPLE VECTORE
THAT'S ALSO WHAT'S CALLED A "DREEM"
SHE'S RIGHT Y'KNOW, SHE'S TALKING ABOUT STRANDS PRODUCED BY A COMBINATION OF YANGERONS AND YINERONS, THE COMPLEXITY OF THE STRANDS BEING EXPRESSED AS A HARMONIC LEVEL
AND THE STRENGTH OF THE BOND PRODUCED EXPRESSED AS A PSYCHE LEVEL
BUT WHY CALL THE STRANDS "SNAKES"?
CAUSE WHEN THE TOTAL FORCE DEVELOPS A POLARITY, IT ALSO DEVELOPS A DIRECTIONALITY. A "HEAD" AND A "TAIL" THERE ARE USUALLY BONDING POINTS AT THE HEAD
IF IT'S A SMALL FORCE, WE CALL IT A "BUG" IF IT'S GOT FOUR BONDING POINTS, WE CALL IT A "SNAKE" IF IT'S LONG AND A FOX IF IT'S SHORT. IF IT'S GOT LOTS OF POINTS WE CALL IT A "CENTIPEDE" IF THE POINTS ARE BENT AND CAN'T GROW, IT'S A "GOBLIN"
IN SITH AND MANTHARA ARE MUTANT NAGAS
YEAH WHEN I LOOK AT PEOPLE'S SPIRITS THEY LOOK LIKE SPIRAL PILLARS OF LIGHT
JEEZ, WHAT A GEEK
MAKES SENSE IF THE STRANDS ARE LONG ENOUGH, THEY CAN BE TWISTED TWO OR THREE TIMES OVER INTO A SPIRAL
GLUP
GLUP
SO EARTH-BOUND SPIRITS AND EVIL THOUGHTS ALWAYS BUILD UP VERTICALLY AND NAGAS ALWAYS RISE BECAUSE OF THE POLARITY OF THE STRANDS?
THE RISING ENERGY AND THE COILING OF THE CHAKRAS HAS TO DO WITH LIFE-FORCE hmmm?
UGH
Heh Heh
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT AN INTERNAL ENERGY SOURCE, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT ONLY THOUGHTS SPIRITS AND MEANING ALL PHYSICAL EXISTENCE IS THE RESULT OF THE COMPLEX INTERACTIONS BETWEEN YANGERONS AND YINERONS. THAT'S WHY SORCERERS TODAY CAN LINK BOTH WILL AND MATTER TOGETHER TO HANDLE THEM
MAGIC DRAWN OUT Long TIME
MY DAD'S TOLD ME ABOUT A MILLION TIMES IN THE OLD DAYS BEFORE THEY HAD PSYCHO SCIENCE THEY USED TO HAVE TO STRUGGLE TO DO THINGS WITH JUST INCANTATIONS AND CEREMONIES

THE MOSAIC [illegible] ARTICLE [illegible] RISE REPRESENT NOT PHYSICAL MATTER, BUT POWER, MEANING AND THE NATURE OF THINGS COMING INTO BEING AS COMPLEX STRUCTURES. HUMANS ARE JUST SPIRAL STRANDS OF DNA. EVERYTHING EXISTS JUST BECOME ONLY A VERY UNCERTAIN [illegible] DYNAMIC FORM OF EXISTENCE WHICH MUST CONTINUALLY EAT AND BREATHE. THESE CAS STRANDS OF DNA ARE THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCK OF ALL LIFE SEEN IN A VARIETY OF MORPHS. ONLY OUR SCIENTISTS WOULD [illegible] AS A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT THEORETICAL BASIS FOR PSYCHOSURGERY.

WOW!
GLUP GLUP GLUP
GEE SESKA THE GOD OF AQUA LOCO MUST BE WATCHING OVER YOU THE WAY YOU KNOCK THAT STUFF BACK
YEAH, YOU BETTER NOT TRY THIS-- IT'LL KILL YOU.
HEH HEH HEH HEHEE
WHAT THE ?!
WATCH OUT SESKA! THAT'S A BAD LUCK MICRO-DAEMON!
AWHAP
OPEN UP! WE'RE LOOKING FOR SESKA- DAUGHTER OF MASTER FUZEN, HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN AND SORCERER OF THE TENDAI NAGA RITUALS!
HUH?!
FUZ ZAY
THIS IS THE IMPERIAL POLICE FORCE!
COME OUT WITH YOU PSYCHE LEVEL OWN!
WHAT ?!
NOW !!
ARMORED NAGA TROOPS FROM THE PALACE ?
? ?!?

SESKA! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE THIS TIME?!
GACK! MAYBE IT'S THAT OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FORM I THREW AWAY? OR THE CITY GATE I SMASHED? OR THE LIGHTNING STRIKE I CALLED DOWN ON THE TAX OFFICE?
WE HAVE ORDERS TO ARREST ANYONE FROM THE FUZE CLAN!
SEIZE HER, MEN!
CHAARRGE!!!
ARREST THE WHOLE CLAN?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
I NEED TO BORROW YOUR AMP* FOR A SEC!
NO! WAIT!! I HAVEN'T BROKEN IT IN YET!!
SHE'S GOING TO FLY! SET FIELD OF CAPTURE AND HARMONIC LEVEL!
FWAHSSHH
HE AMP UNIT CONTAINS AN EMOTIONLESS BIOGRAPHY WHICH MODIFIES THE WILL OF THE USER. FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED COMPLEX INCANTATIONS CAN BE STORED ON CARTRIDGE TYPE TALISMANS.

WHOK
WHOK
WHOK
WHOK
EEK!
SHH
SHH
KLANG
THIS DHARMA CIRCLE LEADS TO A SUB TERRANEAN NAGA CHANNEL! ANY READING ON THE DETECTOR?
NOT A THING SIR! SHE MUST HAVE PHASE SHIFTED AS SOON AS SHE JUMPED IN!
WELL THAT WAS EASY! NABBED ER!
HEH HEH
IDIOT! THAT WAS JUST A DECOY! LOOK!

THAT CURSED BRAT'S MOOD-WINKED US!
WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN GUESS WHERE SHE'S HEADED-- KURAMA TENDAI, THE MAIN TEMPLE FOR THE TENDAI MAGA RITUALS!
THAT'S WHERE THE SECOND COMMANDO FORCE WAS SENT--THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF HER!
BUT THERE'S AN ULTRA HIGH PRESSURE PSYCHE SYSTEM HOVERING OVER KURAMA RIGHT NOW!
YOU THINK WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE FOR LETTING HER SLIP?
LET WHO SLIP? THERE WASN'T ANY ONE IN THE TAVERN!
OH YEAH RIGHT DID I SAY THERE WAS?
Hmm WONDER WHAT THAT HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM'S DOING OVER KURAMA?
THERE'S AN ARMORED GOONSQUAD ON THE PATH TO THE TEMPLE!
THE HIGH PRESSURE MUST BE SLOWING THEM DOWN TOO
IT MUST BE INTERFERING WITH THEIR AMPS SO THEY CAN'T FLY...

WHOO

KSHANGG
KRASHANGG

SMAK
SHHHGG
FWAPP
WHOO
FWOSHH
BOMP!
IN THE NAME OF KURAMA, I SUMMON MY GUARDIANS! O MEN OF STONE! O MEN OF STEEL! WHERE ARE YOU IN MY TIME OF NEED?!

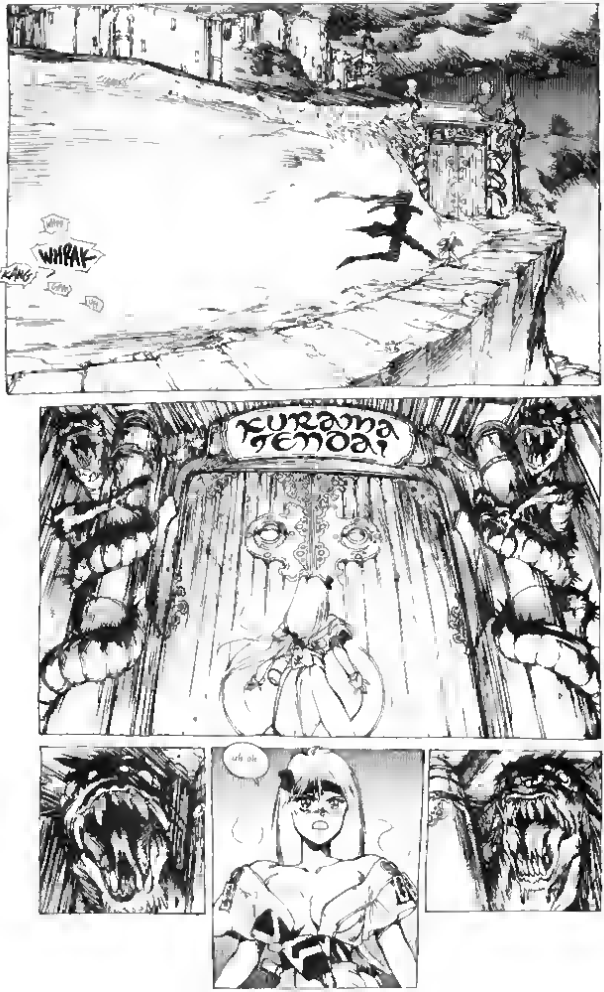
Koff Koff
HACK
KSHANGG
DON'T LET ANY OF 'EM NEAR THE SANCTUARY GATES! UNDERSTAND?!

GHEH
KSHANGG
KNCH
SHRAK
SKNCH
KRAK
I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE VERY MUCH
YEAH WHY'D SHE HAVE TO SUMMON US HERE?!
I WANNA GO HOME
TOO LATE WE'LL HAFTA FIGHT OUR WAY OUT
I'VE GOT A LOCK ON TWO PSYCHO MASSES STRAIGHT AHEAD!
READING 60 PSYCHES HARMONIC LEVEL 41 VARIABILITY 7%
KRANG
ARMORED ARTILLERY FORWARD!

WHD
WHSSH
KCHAK
O FELLOW PRIESTS WHO HAVE FALLEN FROM THE RIGHTEOUS PATH! MAY YOUR EVIL WAYS BRING YOU ETERNAL SUFFERING!
QUICKLY, NOW! BE GONE FROM HERE!
LOCKED AT 120 PSYCHES, HARMONIC LEVEL 4! READY AIM
FIRE!
RAKK

KRR-RAMM
BTAM
!
MMPH!
HRMM
FORWARD!
KSHANGG
BASTARDS! I'LL SHOW YOU A THING OR TWO!!

WHUMP
UFFF!
NOW LISTEN HERE
UGGA UGGA
FHGG HNGRK
SHHH
SHUK
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ?!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON MY SIDE! HAVE YOU BEEN POSSESSED?


WHAK
KURAMA TENDAI
uh oh

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! OPEN THE GATES!
HAVE YOU IDIOTS FORGOTTEN THE HARMONICS OF SESKA BELOVED DAUGHTER OF MASTER FUZEN HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN?!
IS THIS GATE GOING TO LET SOMEONE FROM KURAMA PASS OR NOT?!
GRNN
GRNN
MAYBE THE GUARDIAN DRAGONS ARE GOING SENILE
GRR
OR COULD SOMEONE HAVE REPROGRAMMED THE DHARMA SEAL?
EEEEEE!!
AN EMISSARY OF DEATH!
BOSH
BOSH

HOPE THOSE FAT GUARDIANS I SUMMONED DO THEIR JOB. I'LL HAVE IT OUT WITH 'EM LATER.
WELL WELL WELL IF IT ISN'T SESSIE BABY! NICE LITTLE BIT OF NOTHIN YER ALMOST WEARING!
IT'S A REAL TURN ON! DON'T WEAR THAT FOR ANYBODY CEPT ME OKAY?
Phm
WHUMPF
SHIT!
WHERE'S MY OLD MAN?
MASTER FUZEN? WHY HE'S STILL WORKING ON SOMETHING IN THE SUMMONARY LADY SESKA
THE SUMMONARY?

OMMMMM
OMMMMMM
OMMMMMMMM
DON'T STOP!
OMMMMMMMMM
SESKA! FOLLOW ME!!

DADDY! THERE'S A NEW MODEL GOON SQUAD FROM THE PALACE ON THE TEMPLE STAIRS! THEY'RE COMING HERE!
I KNOW!
YOU KNOW?! THEN WHAT'D I RUN ALL THE WAY HERE FOR?!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
SILENCE! JUST STEP INTO THE MIDDLE OF THAT CIRCLE! QUICKLY!
WHA WHAT'S THIS?!
W WAIT!! THIS IS A DHARMAQUATION WITH A MULTILAYER SEAL CONTAINING A TOP SECRET OF THE IMPERIAL FORCES!

Heh heh NOW I GET IT! YOU STOLE IT DIDN'T YOU DADDY?!
THAT'S WHY THE GOON SQUAD'S HERE!
SEE?! I'M NOT SO STUPID AFTER ALL!
SILENCE! GET IN THE CIRCLE!
WHO WHO?
URMF!
BUT I MIGHT DISTURB THE DHARMA-QUATION
EEEEEEEEEEEEEK
DADDY! YOU PERVERT! MAKING MY CLOTHES FALL OFF! YOU'LL NEVER REACH BUDDHAHOOD LIKE THAT!
DON'T MOVE!!
HM?
STAK
SPAK
SPAK
ZAK

HELP! THE SACRED GOLEM SCRIBINGS ARE COMING TO LIFE!
SILENCE, OR THEY'LL ENTER YOUR MOUTH! CONTROL YOU! BREATHING!
THEY THEY'RE COLD I FEEL THEM ALL OVER MY BODY!!
DAMN
GEE I JUST TURNED INTO A TOP SECRET!
Hmmm

WHA-BOOM
IT'S NO USE
MUST BE PROTECTED BY AN AWFULLY POWERFUL DHARMA SEAL!
WE'RE THE IMPERIAL FORCES; MEN! NO WIMPING OUT!
KSSHHH
KLIK
FREEEEE
Kchak
YREEEE
AT THIS RATE WE MIGHT HAVE TO CALL ON DR HEBIME!
FUNNY LOOKS LIKE ANY OLD WOOD AND STONE GATE

WHKOOOM
WHAT?
WHAT THE HELL?!
VRISSHHH
VRNNNN
IT'S DR HEBIME !!
Hmph THIS IS INTOLERABLE
VWIP

WOW! YOU SEE THAT? I KNOW HE CAN CAST A FAST SPELL, BUT THAT WAS 50 HARMONICS IN ABOUT 7 SECONDS!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
SMAK
WHOSH
AHH!
OOH!
AAAH!
WRAK!

WHISSHH
KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK SKRNCH KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK
Uh...oh! THE DRAGON CARVINGS ON THE PILLARS HAVE BROKEN FREE!
DON'T LOOK AT THEM WITH THE NAKED EYE! YOU'LL GO INSANE!
BEATS WATCHING ON MY COCKPIT SCREEN!
?
KCHIK
CHOK
KRAK
GRAAH!!

FWSSHHHH
FWAP
WOWWW!
KREEE
KREE
GRNN
GRNN
GRNN

THAT DAMN HEBIME'S HERE!
LOOK AT MY ONCE CUTE BODY!
NOW COMMANDER RONNEL WILL NEVER MARRY ME!!
REMEMBER DON'T LET ANYONE SEE THE DHARMA QUATION!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM? AN EXHIBITIONIST?
WAIT! WAIT A MINUTE DADDY!
I NEED SOME CLOTHES!!
OHHHHHH
OHHHHHH
HOW'S IT GOING?!
IT'S STILL DEVELOPING MASTER!

WHAT ARE ALL THESE PRIESTS TRYING TO SUMMON, DADDY?
STOP!! DON'T STEP IN THAT DHARMA CIRCLE!!
WE'RE SUMMONING A VAJRA ARHAT!
WHAT?! BUT IT'S FORBIDDEN TO SUMMON ONE USING TENDAI NAGA RITUALS!
HAVE YOU HAD A SECT CHANGE OR SOMETHING?!
WH-KASH!
HUH?

TAKE HEED!
A WARRANT FROM THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL
FOR MASTER FUZEN, HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN GUARDIAN OF THE TENDAI NAGA DRAGON RITUALS AT KURAMA TENDAI!
EDICT
FWAPP
ARREST THIS MAN ON CHARGES OF STEALING MILITARY SECRETS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT!!
IN THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY KENKOKU, GLORIOUS THIRD EMPEROR OF THE YAMATA PEOPLE'S EMPIRE THE TENDAI TEMPLE IS ORDERED CLOSED AND ITS MEMBERS ARE HEREWITH PLACED IN THE CUSTODY OF GYOUN HEBIME, MILITARY COUNSELOR TO THE IMPERIAL COURT!!
WHAT?!!

HOW CAN THE EMPEROR MAKE A DECISION LIKE THAT WITHOUT ANY PROOF?!
HAH! I BET YOU FORGED THAT THING!!
YOU WISH! NO THIS CRYSTAL SKULL HERE TOLD ME EVERY THING!
SO GET OUT OF THE WAY FOOLISH WENCH! YOU KNOW NOTHING OF PSYCHO SCIENCE!
WAIT! IT'S TRUE I STOLE THE SECRETS BUT THERE'S A GOOD REASON!
THE REST OF THE CLAN AND TENDAI HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS! THERE'S NO NEED TO INVOLVE THE EMPEROR!
TOO LATE! THE EDICT HAS BEEN ISSUED!
AND I SENSE THAT SOMEONE IN YOUR CLAN HAS HIDDEN THE DHARMAQUATION SOMEWHERE IN TENDAI!
WHAT?! YOU MEAN THE DHARMA-QUATION'S ACTIVE?
IF IT IS WE'RE ALL IN BIG TROUBLE!
Hmph! WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW OF THE VAJRA NAGA-DRAGON RITUALS OR PSYCHO-SCIENCE MACHINES?!
BUT IF THAT'S TRUE SOME THING TERRIBLE COULD HAPPEN!
THE TENDAI NAGA-DRAGON RITUAL HAS ALREADY BEEN ENCODED INTO THE DHARMA QUATION! IT'LL SUMMON THE WORST DEMON IMAGINABLE!

FIFTY-TWO YEARS AGO WHEN WE NAVIGATED THROUGH THE HEAVENS USING THE TENDAI NAGA RITUALS AND APPEARED ON THIS PLANET WHAT YOU SAY MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRUE
BUT NO LONGER!
WHY IS KURAMA TENDAI ALLOWING THE PEOPLE OF THE LONGAI AND YAGANA LANDS WHO ARE NOT ALLIED WITH OUR GLORIOUS EMPEROR TO FREELY COME AND GO IN ITS AREA?
YAMATA
SONGAI
TAIKAN
LONGAI
KURAMA TENDAI
YAMATA PEOPLES EMPIRE
LAKE SOLE
I HAVE ADVISED THE EMPEROR THAT THESE INDEPENDENT ACTIONS HAVE GONE TOO FAR. THAT HE MUST ACT!
WHAT CAME OVER YOU FUZEN? I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU
HA! AND I IN YOU HERE IN WITH YOUR LOVE OF PSYCHO SCIENCE!!
WE ORIGINALLY CAME TO THIS PLANET TO COLLECT ALL THE NEGATIVE KARMA IN THE GREATER GALACTIC EMPIRE INTO ONE SPOT— AND DESTROY IT.
NOW THAT YOU'VE STOLEN THE DHARMAQUATION TO ACTIVATE THE COLLECTOR THE GREAT DRAGON WITH NINE TAILS AND NINE HEADS THAT WE CALL THE YAMATA-NO OROCHI— JUST WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
SWIPE

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN CONTROL THE POWER OF THE NAGA WITH YOUR LUDICROUS PSYCHO SCIENCE MACHINES?
SOMETIMES PSYCHO SCIENCE IS A LITTLE HELPFUL DADDY
WHY YOU PATHETIC, BRAIN-DAMAGED FOOL!
KRAMM
KUHOM
ARREST THEM ALL!!
YESSIR!
SMASH ANYONE NEAR THE DHARMA QUATION! DEAL WITH THE GIRL AS YOU SEE FIT BUT DON'T SHED ANY BLOOD! WE'LL TAKE THE DHARMAQUATION WITH US!

WHRAK
SKNCH
FRAKK
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
RUN!! SESKA! RUN!
D-D-DON'T MIND IF I DO!

SKRRSHH
EEK!
CHOK
WHMPH
UR MH!
NO! DON'T STEP IN THE CIRCLE!!
THAT'S A NINE-HEADED NAGA DRAGON DHARMA-QUATION!

WHSSST
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
SESKA!!
!
WHKAMM
SKSSHHHH

HGGRFF
DAAH!!
PLEASE LET THIS ALL JUST BE
A BAD DREAM !
KTAK
WELL WELL! THIS REVERSES THE ROLES WE HAD IN OUR FORMER LIVES
HAH! I I KNEW LONG AGO THIS WOULD HAPPEN AND I KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT TOO
MASTER HEBIME! URGENT MESSAGE FROM KUMAMO TENDAI !!
WHAT IS IT ?!
YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND!
THAT S NOT
FOSSIBLE
VRRNNNIVNN
A PSYCHO MASS TRAVELING AT SUPER LUMINAL SPEED IS HEADED HERE TO KUMAMA TENDAI
IT'S GOT AN ESTIMATED PSYCHE LEVEL OF 2,950 000 000 !

IT'S HIM
WHA... WHA...
BY THE GODS !!

AIEEE!
WHAT THE HELL?!
BKOOM
BOOM!
BOMF
DON'T PANIC, MEN! LOOSEN YOUR PSYCH-ADJUSTER BOLTS AND THE FORCE WON'T HIT YOU! BUT DON'T TOUCH THE MAYA-BREAKERS!
S. SESKA"! GO TO THE TEMPLE LIBRARY AND OPEN THE BOX WITH THE RED SEAL!
WHAT?!
SCROLL NUMBER EIGHT HAS A DESCRIPTION OF THE DHARMA SEAL AND HOW TO OPERATE THE NAGA SYSTEM... THE VAJRA ARHAT TRAVELS THROUGH SPACE WITH A PSYCHIC LEVEL OF 980,000,000, AND HE'S INVINCIBLE—BUT WITH SCROLL EIGHT YOU CAN CONTROL HIM!

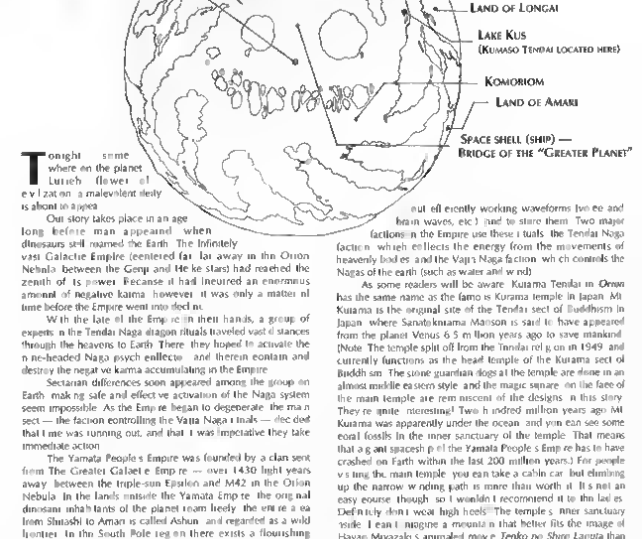
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBBB
I SAW IT ALL BEFORE! THE FUTURE. THE DEMONS, AND THE NINE HEADED NAGA. THE FREEZING OVER OF LUR! EARTH. THE DEATH OF THE PLANET...
AND THE ONLY THING THAT CAN PREVENT IT IS... NO. MAYBE IT'S ALL PREDESTINED AFTER ALL
RMBBB
HERE, TAKE THIS TO OUR EMPEROR AND THE SHOGUN! QUICKLY!
NO TIP?
WHOOSHAM

WHOO
KCHAK
SKREE

SKREEEK
I'LL LEAVE THE NINE-HEADED NAGA AND THE DEMONS UP TO YOU
SUSANO ORBATOS !!
D-DID YOU SAY SUSANO ?!
THE GOD OF DARKNESS ?!
THE ONE IN THE MYTHS ?!
TO BE CONTINUED.

ORION notes

THE PLANET LURIE



Tonight somewhere on the planet Lurieh flower of evilization a malevolent deity is about to appear.

Our story takes place in an age long before man appeared when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth. The Infinitely vast Galactic Empire (centered far far away in the Orion Nebula between the Genpi and Heike stars) had reached the zenith of its power. Because it had incurred an enormous amount of negative karma however it was only a matter of time before the Empire went into decline.

With the fate of the Empire in their hands, a group of experts in the Tendai Naga dragon rituals traveled vast distances through the heavens to Earth. There they hoped to activate the nine-headed Naga psych collective and therein contain and destroy the negative karma accumulating in the Empire.

Sectarian differences soon appeared among the group on Earth making safe and effective activation of the Naga system seem impossible. As the Empire began to degenerate the main sect — the faction controlling the Yamata Naga rituals — decided that time was running out, and that it was imperative they take immediate action.

The Yamata People's Empire was founded by a clan sent from The Greater Galaxian Empire — over 1430 light years away between the triple-sun Epsilon and M42 in the Orion Nebula. In the lands outside the Yamata Empire the original dinosaur inhabitants of the planet roam freely. The entire area from Shirashi to Aman is called Ashun and regarded as a wild frontier. In the South Pole region there exists a flourishing psych-civilization of odd jointed limb beings (who have also come to Earth from outer space). Because this civilization and Yamata exist in different thermal zones they rarely clash with each other. According to the Oil Shiki myths these beings did not transcend their physical forms until much later. The current Emperor of the Yamata People's Empire is Kenkoku the Third but since he is seventy-two years old his son Prince Masakuni is the de facto ruler.

In the Yamata People's Empire electricity gas and water are all controlled by the Naga dragon rituals. The Naga rituals use psychic power as a trigger to reprogram the power balance (the Naga power balance that is) in the natural world, to seek out efficiently working waveforms (positive and brain waves, etc.) and to store them. Two major factions in the Empire use these rituals: the Tendai Naga faction which reflects the energy from the movements of heavenly bodies and the Vajra Naga faction which controls the Nagas of the earth (such as water and wind).

As some readers will be aware Kurama Tendai in *Orion* has the same name as the famous Kurama temple in Japan. Mt. Kurama is the original site of the Tendai sect of Buddhism in Japan where Sanatsukumara Maitreya is said to have appeared from the planet Venus 6.5 million years ago to save mankind. (Note: The temple split off from the Tendai religion in 1949 and currently functions as the head temple of the Kurama sect of Buddhism. The stone guardian dogs at the temple are done in an almost middle eastern style and the magic sanare on the face of the main temple are reminiscent of the designs in this story. They're quite interesting!) Two hundred million years ago Mt. Kurama was apparently under the ocean and you can see some coral fossils in the inner sanctuary of the temple. That means that a giant spaceship of the Yamata People's Empire has to have crashed on Earth within the last 200 million years.) For people visiting the main temple you can take a cable car but climbing up the narrow winding path is more than worth it. It's not an easy course though so I wouldn't recommend it to the faint-hearted. Definitely don't wear high heels!! The temple's inner sanctuary inside I can imagine a mountain that better fits the image of Hayao Miyazaki's animated movie *Tenkuo no Shiro Laputa* than this one.

In *Orion* "tendai" is a type of observatory a place where the Naga forces and star forces in the universe are collected and studied. I've drawn the tendai like a giant mistral eave but it isn't actually hollowed out. It's really the bridge of a former giant spaceship. There's an original drawing of a mistral eave in the manga *Tales of Haraido-sho* those who want to know more about such things should refer to that.

The next episode appears in two months. Sorry to keep everyone waiting so long. See you then.

by masamune shirow august 8 1990

SACRED SCRIBINGS

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Dear Sacred Scribings People

First thanks for sending the ***Orion*** preview It s not the first preview I ve received but the first I ve written about Second thanks again for putting out in English a comic by Japanese talent Every other one I ve seen at my local stores reads backwards If you could read it that is And all to my distress I m a very big fan of Japanese art and after *Akira* I found out these guys can write too!

So here lies in front of me ***Orion*** I m a bit puzzled right now but it has certainly caught my fancy! I like the mix of magic and technology and I think I m going to fall in love with Seska Five more issues and I shall have to ask her hand in marriage Hopefully those issues will bring us a little more info on this brilliant new cosmos

Many thanks

Jason Reno
Denver CO

Those backward reading original editions may be difficult if you don t read Japanese but I ve been impressed during my work on this book at how good a visual storyteller Shirow is even in a format Americans are unfamiliar to We hope **Orion** *will appeal to both long time manga fans and newcomers*

Dear Mr Weeks

First off thank you for sending me the advance look at ***Orion*** I really appreciate it Now onto my comments First thing though is that I want to comment on how looooong the first issue was I hope that the other issues are that long I must say that I really don t like Japanese art but in this case I was impressed There was still that silly face look (i e page 2 second to last panel page 10 last panel) that you find in it seems all Japanese-style books but overall I was really impressed Even though it was black and white and a copy I found the art to be good I can t wait to see the real product Some pages I really liked were 36 and 37 Awesome stuff

The story however is another issue Man was I very confused at some points After reading the issue three times I came to be one with the Dharmaquation It seemed to me that there was too much going on at one time as far as transcendental stuff Not really complex stuff but a lot to digest about dharmaquations and spiral pillars of light and even yangerons and yinerons Even with the explanations in the margin it was a little too much I don t think that it really detracted from the overall picture it just meant that you have to read it over again

Anyway overall the book was good and I thoroughly enjoyed it I give it a psyche reading of three (out of a possible four)

Thank You

Galen S West
Ridgecrest, CA

Shirow certainly doesn't skimp on story does he? The varied influences that have gone into **Orion** *include Tantric Buddhism Japanese and classical mythology H P Lovecraft s Cthulhu mythos the I Ching and invented kanji combinations that bear some resemblance to Sanskrit While* **Orion** *may be a little complex you can always find something new each time you read it*

Shirow doesn't skimp on pages either! Due to the length of this opening episode we found a perfect bound format the easiest join us two months from now for **Orion** *in our regular format at a new lower price*

Keep tuned for Issue two, where things really heat up! May benevolent deities smile on you until then.

John Weeks